

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: HOVENEGR 14, 2002

Daniel R. Kiselik Serial No. : 09/765,511 Art Unit: 2166 January 19, 2001 Filed Examiner: unknown

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE AUTOMATIC SELECTION For

OF PARTIES TO AN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN A REQUESTOR

AND A SATISFIER OF SELECTED REQUIREMENTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.115 RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 3600

Honorable Sir:

examination of above-identified the Preliminary an application for patent, please insert the following claims for consideration in addition to the originally-filed claims:

A method of operating a computer system for the automatic selection of parties to a transaction between a system-qualified buyer of goods or services and a system-qualified seller of goods or services, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting into the computer system a first predetermined composite of criteria representing each buyer qualified to enter the computer system as a system-qualified buyer;

inputting into the computer system a second predetermined composite of criteria representing each seller qualified to serve as a system-qualified seller in the computer system, the second predetermined composite of criteria including vendor criteria pertaining to the ability of the seller to deliver goods or services, and vending criteria pertaining to requirements of the